REMARKS

Independent claim 2 has been amended in a sincere attempt to place the case in condition for allowance. The definition of Z has been changed to eliminate the acetylenic group.

OK

The rejection of claims 2, 4, 6, 9, and 10 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by the newly cited Hird et al. Liquid Crystal article, if applied to the claims as amended, is respectfully traversed. The claims, as indicated above, have been changed to eliminate the acetylenic moiety, which is shown in all of the Examiner-indicated compounds of the reference. The rejection should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 11 to 22 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Hird et al. further in view of Hanna et al. '510 is also respectfully traversed. As indicated above, claim 2 has been revised to eliminate the acetylenic moiety shown in the Hird et al. compounds. Accordingly, claims 11 to 22 are believed patentable also.

In view of the foregoing revisions and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 4 to 6, and 8 to 22 are in condition for allowance and a USPTO paper to those ends is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned if additional changes are required in the case prior to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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January 24, 2003
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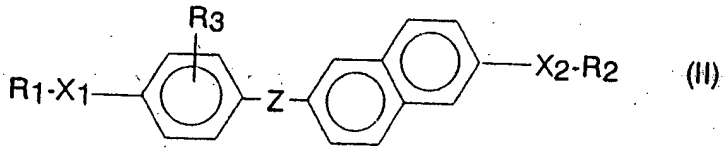
Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

2. (Twice Amended) A liquid crystalline compound represented by the following general formula (II):



(II)

wherein R_1 and R_2 each independently represent a straight-chain, branched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms and may be attached directly to the aromatic ring without through X_1 or X_2; R_3 represents a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, or a methyl group; X_1 represents a sulfur atom, or a -CO-, -OCO-, -COO-, -N=CH-, -CONH-, -NH-, or $-CH_2-$ group; X_2 represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or a -CO-, -OCO-, -COO-, -N=CH-, -CONH-, -NH-, -NHCO-, or $-CH_2-$group; and Z represents a -N=N-, -CH=N-, $-CH_2S-$, or -CH=CH-[, or -C≡C-] group.